

## **P-20 Council Meeting Notes**

Buck Library, Buena Vista Conference Center  
New Castle, DE  
Monday, January 14, 2019

Members Present: Whitney Sweeney, Susan Bunting, Jon Sheehan, Earl Jaques, Madeleine Bayard, Dusty Blakey, Stephanie Ingram, John Pelesko, Angela Suchanic, Justina Sapna, Janine Sorbello, Jeff Gibson, Steve Yeatman, Kelly Coffey, John Buckley, Jim Wilson, Alison White, Cerron Cade, David Sokola, James DeChene, and Kendall Massett.

Others Present: Jenna Ahner, Kim Krzanowski, Shana Payne, Kathy Kelly, Michelle Taylor, Kelly Sherretz, Nicole Marshall, Amy Baker-Sheridan, Hailey Qaissaunee, John Marinucci, Shelley Rouser, Christine Alois, Monica Gant, and Dawn McHugh.

### **I. Welcome and Objectives**

Whitney Sweeney, President, State Board of Education, called the meeting to order.

Susan Bunting, Secretary of Education, provided an overview of the agenda and outlined objectives for the meeting.

### **II. Approval of October 8, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Secretary Bunting presented the draft minutes from the October 8, 2018 meeting.

A motion was made by Representative Jaques and seconded by Mr. Yeatman to approve the October 8, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

### **III. Revised P-20 Council Vision and Mission Statements and Role of the Council (for Potential Action)**

Ms. Sweeney outlined draft language for the vision, mission, and role of the P-20 Council based on existing language in State Code and feedback provided at the October meeting.

The Council discussed the language and the role of the Council. The Council discussed whether the language on recommendations should be more specific. They also discussed whether the language around public education is too specific. Members expressed interest in establishing subcommittees of the Council to support the mission of the group.

The Council supported the adoption of the updated vision, mission, and roles.

#### **IV. Subcommittees on Reducing Remediation Discussion and Next Steps**

Shana Payne, Director of Higher Education, Department of Education, provided an overview of the Delaware College Success Report.

Meeting participants broke into small groups to discuss the following questions:

- What is the role of P-20 in producing/supporting a report focused on college remediation rates, transitions from middle to high school and high school to post-secondary?
- In what ways does the current data inform your work to support students preparing for post-secondary transitions (college and career)?
- Does the data adequately call attention to our performance in helping students transition from middle to high school and high school to postsecondary?
- What additional data would be helpful to support your work? How would you ideally use this report to support your work?
- If the report is changed, what would you want to keep?

The Council reconvened in a large group to share key takeaways from small group conversations. Members discussed the opportunity for the Council to ask new questions and to inform work happening in middle school and high school. The group discussed the need to communicate to parents and to better utilize data to inform the Council's work on this topic moving forward. Members discussed the need to prepare students for both college and career.

The Department of Education will follow-up with individuals interested in participating in a focus group to help inform the development of a new template and format for the College Success Report.

Shana Payne provided an update on the status of the subcommittee on reducing English remediation. Members commented that the work is focused on literacy and does not discuss the instruction of reading.

John Pelesko, University of Delaware, and John Buckley, Delaware State University, provided an update on the subcommittee on reducing math remediation. The recommendations of the subcommittee were reviewed. The Council discussed elements contributing to the need for math remediation, including teacher preparation.

Mr. Pelesko and Mr. Buckley asked the Council to make the subcommittee on reducing math remediation a standing committee of the P-20 Council. The Council agreed to continue the work of the subcommittee on reducing math remediation. The membership and objectives of the Committee will be reviewed and revised.

## **V. Supporting Early Reading Proficiency (for Potential Action)**

Christine Alois, Deputy Secretary of Education, provided background information on the work the Department of Education is conducting around supporting early reading proficiency.

Kathy Kelly, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development at the Department of Education provided additional context on work underway to support early reading proficiency.

Michelle Taylor, President and CEO of the United Way of Delaware, provided background and context on the Get Delaware Reading initiative.

Kim Krzanowski, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning provided information on work underway in her office. She gave an overview of a federal grant recently received to support this work.

Ms. Sweeney shared that teacher training and ongoing professional development have been key themes in the conversation about supporting early literacy. In partnership with Secretary Bunting, she requested that the P-20 Council convene a subcommittee on early literacy. The objectives of the subcommittee will be to review current undergraduate curriculum, current graduate coursework, continuing education pathways, and ongoing professional development and make recommendations related to the improvement of existing programs and policies or the creation of new professional development opportunities for teachers and leaders.

The Council discussed subcommittee membership.

Secretary Bunting asked Shelley Rouser, Chair of the Education Department at Delaware State University to lead this subcommittee.

## **VI. Next Steps**

Secretary Bunting thanked participants for their time and shared that she is looking forward to the next meeting scheduled for April 8, 2019 at 2:30pm in Dover.